

Clicker5

In Your Classroom

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1. Overview

Raise reading and writing standards in your classroom by using Clicker! Clicker is a unique and exciting addition to your classroom tools, making literacy fun!

Here at Crick Software, we know that you want *all* of your students to succeed – including struggling readers & writers, English language learners, and your more able students.

That's why we've put these pages together – to help you get the most out of Clicker in *your* classroom.

Read on to find out how Clicker can motivate *your* students!

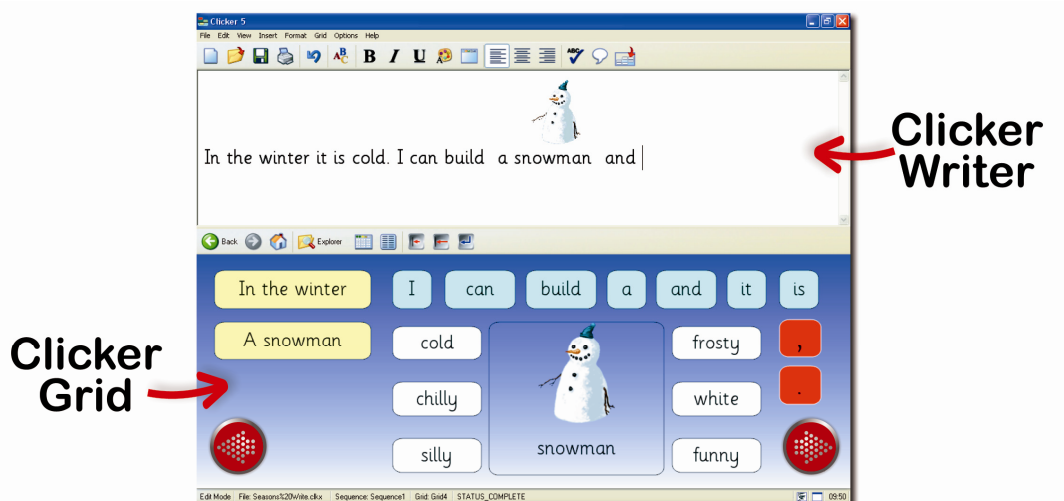
2. Writing with Clicker

2.1 Introduction

Clicker Writer is a word processor which can:

- Read aloud any text, highlighting each word when spoken
- Show pictures above words
- Automatically capitalize proper nouns and words at the start of sentences

You enter text into Clicker Writer using either your keyboard or a Clicker Grid.



Clicker Grids enable students to become more independent and confident about constructing their writing. Grids have 'cells' containing words, phrases, or pictures.

To write in Clicker Writer, simply click on a word, phrase, or picture in the Clicker Grid!

To check the word or phrase first, right-click on it (Mac: Ctrl-click) to hear it read aloud!

2.2 Sentence Building

Clicker provides learners with the support they need to produce meaningful sentences. Simply vary the level of support according to the needs of the individual! By offering sentence-building support at the appropriate level, Clicker raises the writing standards of learners of all abilities.

To hear a word before you write, right-click on it (Mac: Ctrl-click). When you complete the sentence, Clicker automatically reads it out. Learners are encouraged to listen and then self-correct their work.

Use linked sentence-building grids

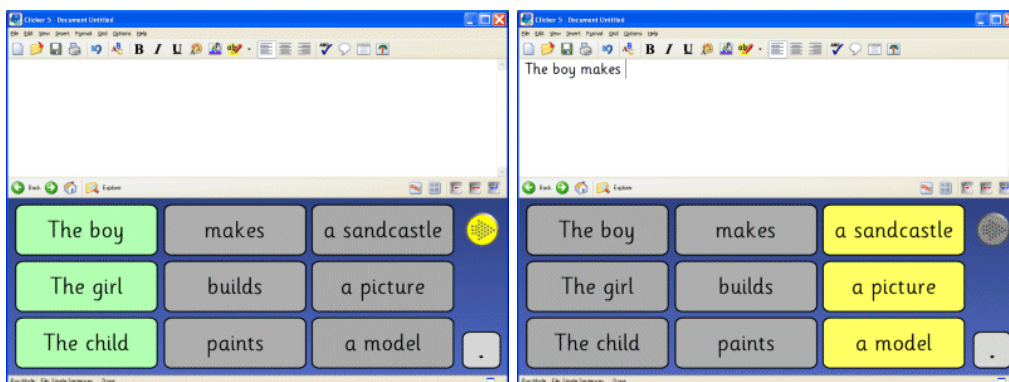
You can build up a piece of writing by using a set of linked sentence-building grids. Move between grids using the arrows! The text in Clicker Writer stays the same when you move between grids.



["School Sentences"](#)

Teach left-to-right sentence construction

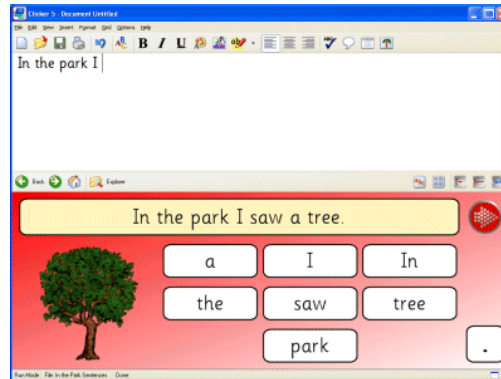
In 'forced order' activities, only some of the cells in the grid are active. Choose a word from the left-hand column to make the next column of words available. These activities ensure that sentences make grammatical sense, even if you choose the wrong word!



["Simple Sentences"](#)

Use model sentences

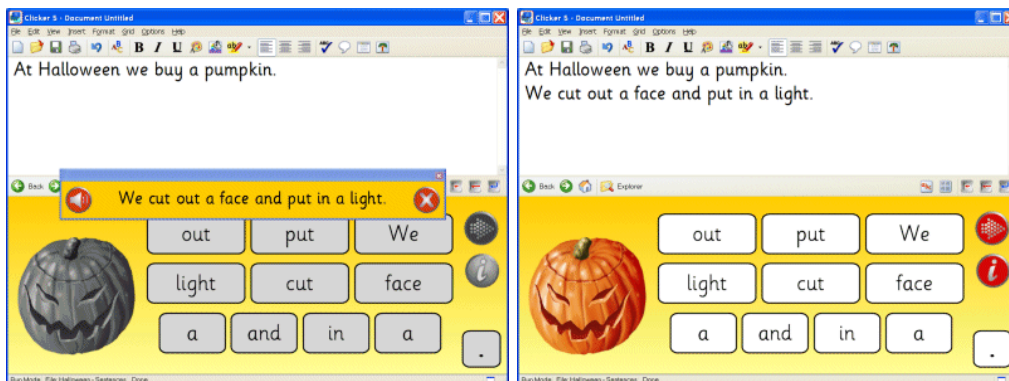
Provide a model sentence to let learners see and hear a sentence before building it. When they complete the sentence, they hear their sentence read out. They then compare their sentence with the model – both visually and aurally – and make corrections as necessary!



["In the Park Sentences"](#)

Use model sentences in pop-up grids

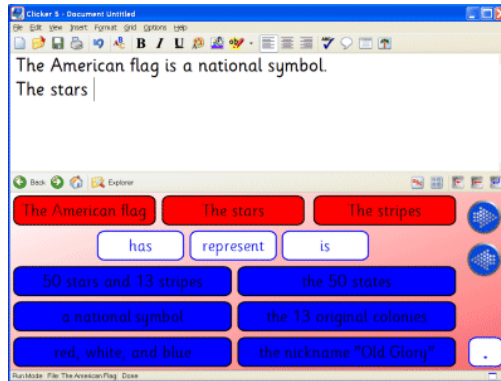
Look-cover-write-check! Learners click on a button to view the pop-up, and must then close it before constructing the sentence themselves.



["Halloween - Sentences"](#)

Match starters and endings

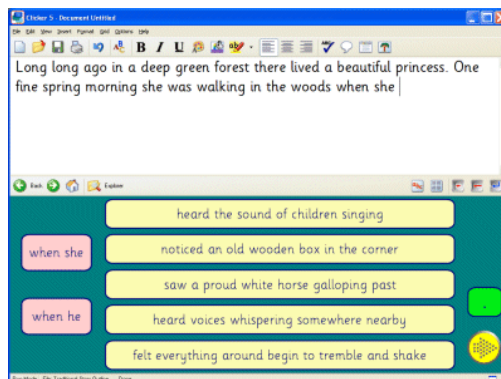
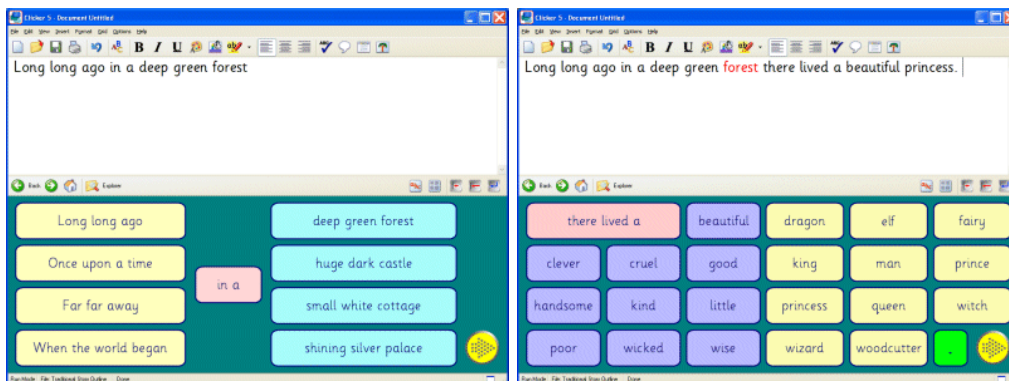
Use sentence starters and endings in the grid – match them together to build sentences!



"The American Flag"

Complete an extended piece of writing

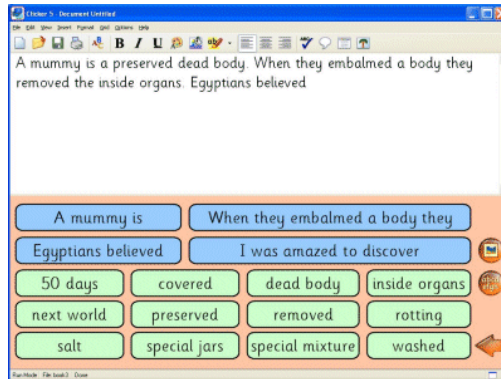
A set of grids acts as scaffolding for a whole piece of writing – not just for each sentence! Each grid contains only a small selection of words, ensuring the learner isn't overwhelmed. Simply move to the next grid to see words for the next part of the story!



"Traditional Story Outline"

Use both grids AND the keyboard

You can use both the grid and the keyboard to enter text into Clicker Writer. Use the grid to provide sentence starters and a vocabulary list – and you then enter any further text using the computer's keyboard!



["Find Out & Write About The Ancient Egyptians"](#)

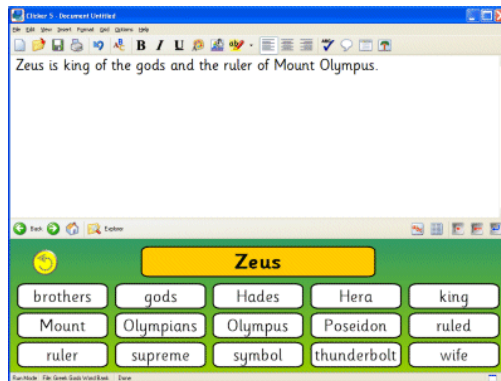
2.3 Word Banks

With word bank grids, you use Clicker to present students with only a set of words, letting them type most of their text using the keyboard.

A Clicker Grid can be hidden – so students bring it up only when they need it!

Brainstorm and record relevant vocabulary

Why not compile a word bank with the class? It's easy for you to enter text into a Clicker Grid for any curriculum topic – before the students start to write. This is a great whiteboard activity!



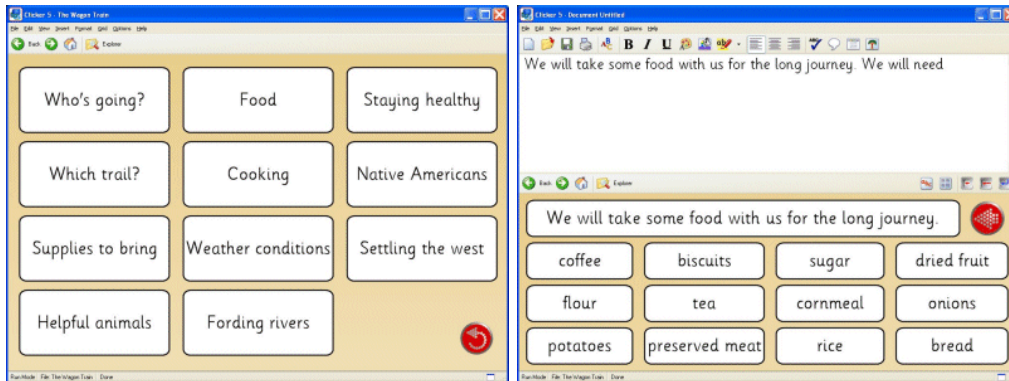
["Greek Gods Word Bank"](#)

Try printing Clicker Grid word banks – for students to practice reading and writing key vocabulary away from the computer.

Link word banks

Clicking on a cell in the Clicker Grid can take you to another grid, so a word bank can act as a 'menu' – simply click on a word to go to another word bank containing relevant vocabulary!

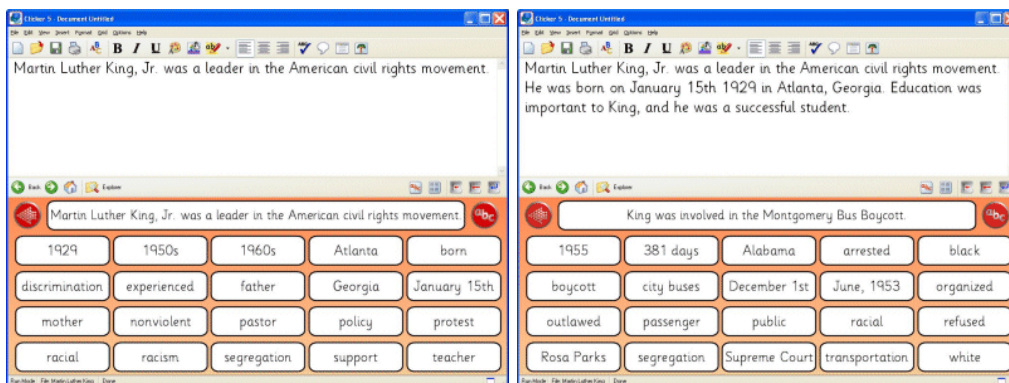
In this example, clicking on 'Food' in the grid on the left takes you to the grid on the right.



["The Wagon Train"](#)

Sequence an event or account

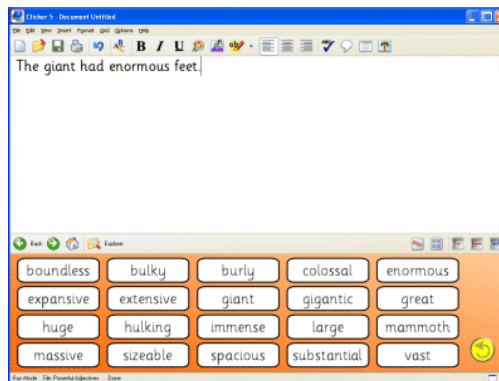
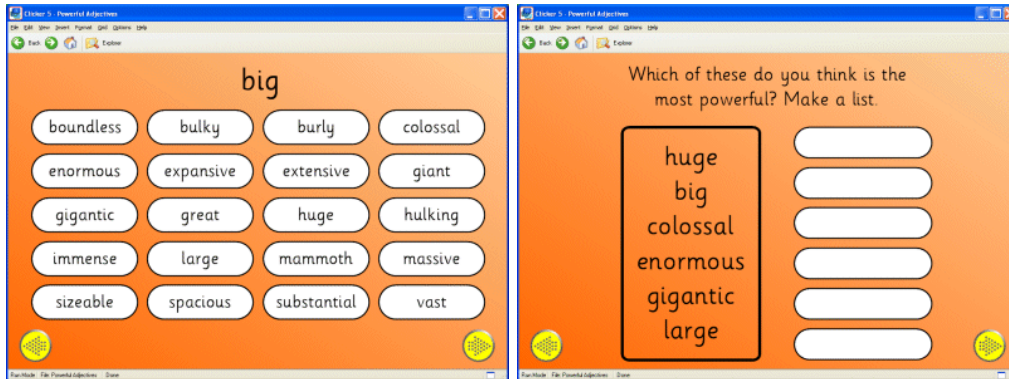
Use word bank grids to put together an account or sequence of an event. With each grid focusing on a specific element, you concentrate on the key words or phrases for an area, before adding your account of the event using the next grid.



["Martin Luther King"](#)

Extend vocabulary

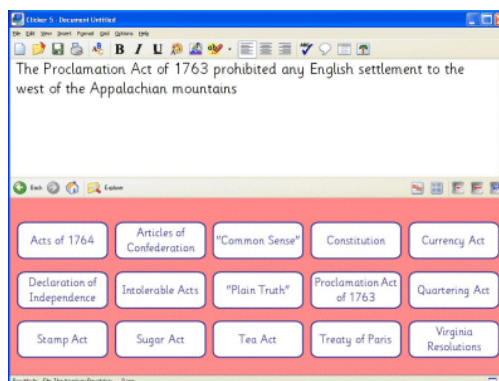
As a class or group, decide on alternatives for words. Add the words to the word bank, as in this 'alternative adjectives' example.



["Powerful Adjectives"](#)

Support keyboard writing

Word bank grids support writing by providing words that learners may have difficulty spelling, or key words that enable them to complete all elements of the topic.



["The American Revolution"](#)

2.4 Writing Frames

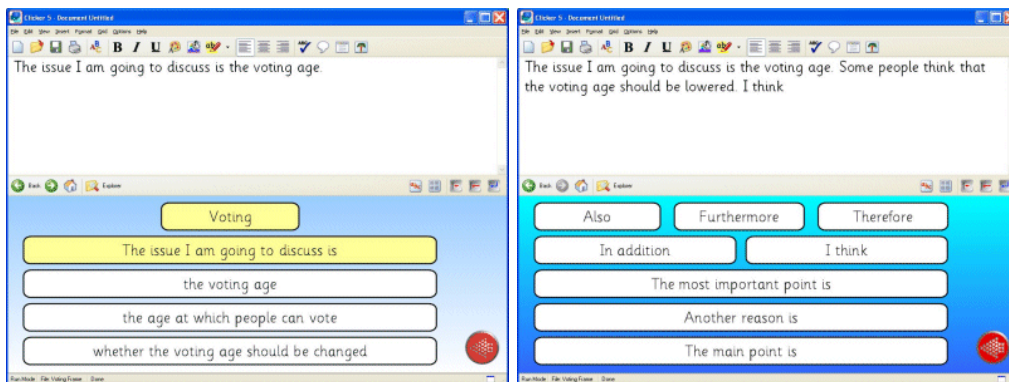
Writing frames guide learners through a writing activity. Linked Clicker Grids, or pop-up grids, enable learners to structure and sequence a piece of writing.

Writing frames that include blank or partly filled word banks enable learners to be involved in their development – personalizing the information and vocabulary included.

Writing frames can be created for a range of genres:

Discussion

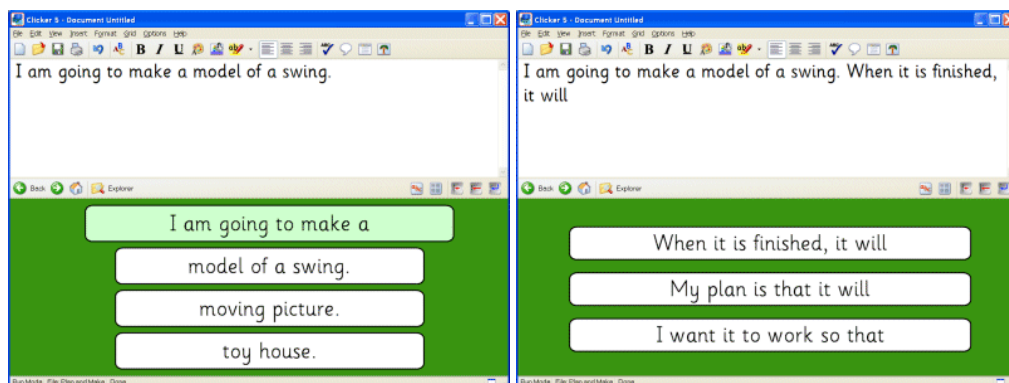
This example offers a writing frame with sentence starters and links to supporting arguments. There are also links to additional vocabulary and connectives.



["Voting Frame"](#)

Procedures

These linked word bank examples let you either change the text or add your own words to blank cells.



["Plan and Make"](#)

Recounting

This example helps learners structure their retelling of a familiar story.

The first screenshot shows a blank text area and three yellow boxes containing the text: "Once upon a time", "there were", and "three bears".

The second screenshot shows the text "Once upon a time there were three bears." in the text area. Below it are three boxes: "Every morning they", "made porridge for breakfast", and "went for a walk".

The third screenshot shows the text "Once upon a time there were three bears. Every morning they made porridge for breakfast and went for a walk." in the text area. Below it are three boxes: "One day a little girl named Goldilocks", "was out for a walk", and "came to their cottage".

["The Three Bears"](#)

Explanation

This writing frame steps through the writing process with links to blank word banks for you to add appropriate vocabulary. Click on 'Book Details' on the first grid to go to the second grid.

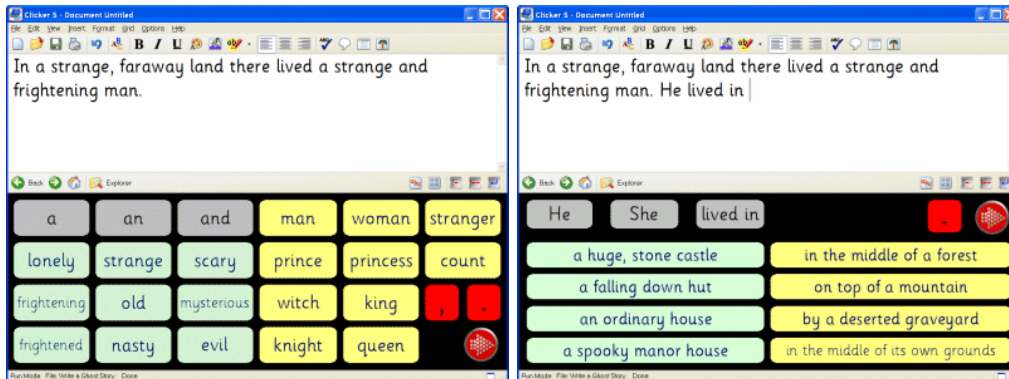
The first screenshot shows a text area with the text "On the cover of this book there is". Below it are six colored boxes with text: "The main characters in this story are", "The plot is about", "I think the best bit is when", "I liked it because", and "I would describe this book as". To the right of these boxes are five buttons: "Book Details", "Characters", "Plot", "Best Bit", "Reasons", and "Description".

The second screenshot shows the text area with the text "On the cover of this book there is". Below it are three boxes: "photograph", "author", and "title".

["Book Report - Set Two"](#)

Narrative

This structured framework provides alternative choices for constructing a story.



["Write a Ghost Story"](#)

3. Talking Books

3.1 Introduction

Clicker lets you create your own talking books quickly and easily. Use pictures, sounds, text, and videos in full-screen grids to create resources relevant to any teaching topic! Talking books provide an opportunity for learners to recall and share facts or events in an exciting way, making the most of Clicker's multimedia features.



["Frog Book Video"](#)

Listen to the complete contents of a page by clicking on the speaker icon, or to individual words by clicking on them. Learners maintain fluency and independence and are able to record their own voice on each page.

Why not print the pages of talking books and provide learners with the opportunity to read the books away from the computer!

Pop-up picture and word grids enable learners to write their own versions of talking books – selecting pictures, words or phrases for each page!

By creating your own Clicker books, it's easy to focus on particular vocabulary, such as high-frequency words – or a particular teaching point, such as rhyming strings – so you have control over the content.

Incorporate as much repetition as necessary to meet the ability needs of users, and include your own photographs, sound, and video files!



Crick Software has produced additional exciting talking books, which include many follow-up activities:

[Planet Wobble](#)

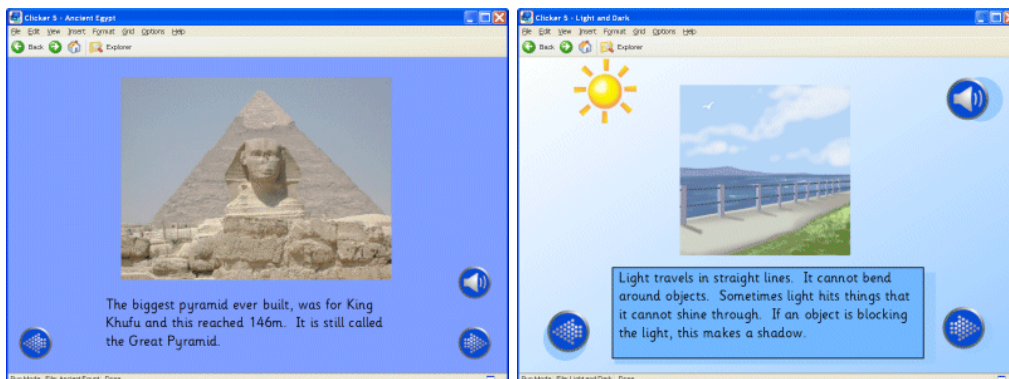
[Find Out & Write About](#)

3.2 Reading

Clicker comes with many example talking books, with many more available on the LearningGrids website. It also provides templates that enable you to create your own talking book in minutes!

Relevant to any teaching topic

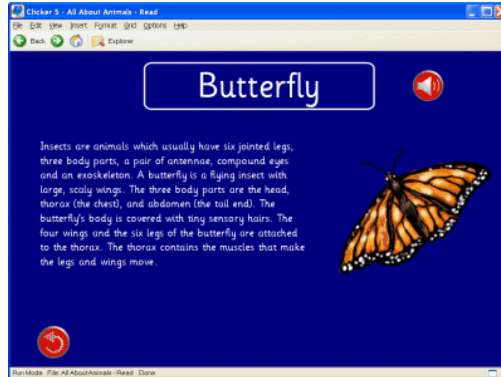
Any topic benefits from Clicker. It's so flexible and versatile - it can provide information on any subject you like! And reluctant or struggling readers can always click on a button to listen to the text, too.



["Ancient Egypt"](#) | ["Light and Dark"](#)

Engage disaffected readers

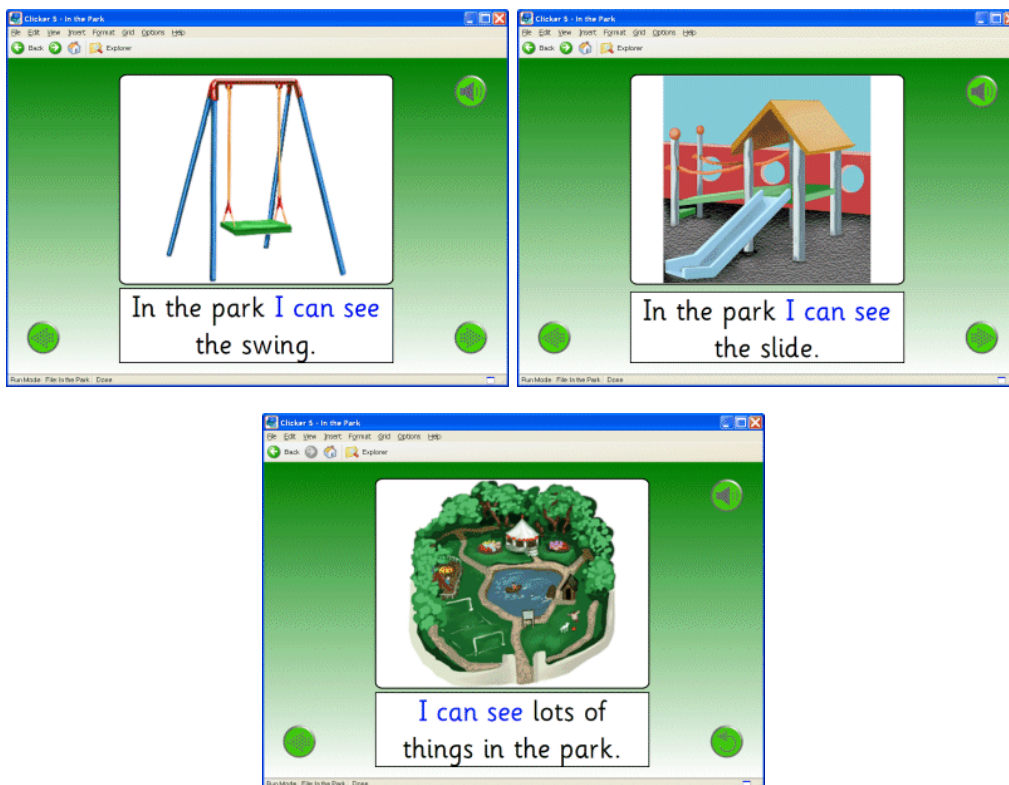
By adapting the text and images in a talking book, the content and format is always appropriate to your students. Tailoring books to the interest and ability of the student encourages them to fully engage in the activity!



["All About Animals - Read"](#)

Highlight and reinforce key vocabulary

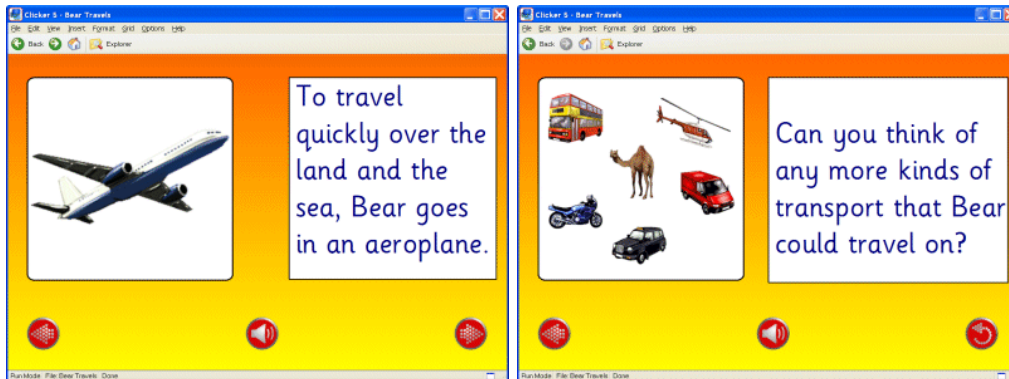
Talking books provide opportunities for overlearning – if you highlight the key word or phrase in a different color on each page, learners become familiar with the key vocabulary.



["In the Park"](#)

A stimulus for further activities

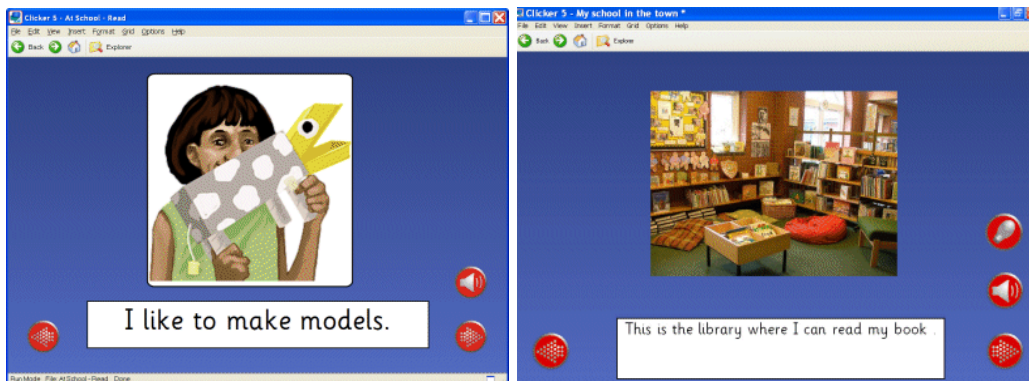
Ask questions within books to encourage further discussion:



"Bear Travels"

Create personalized resources

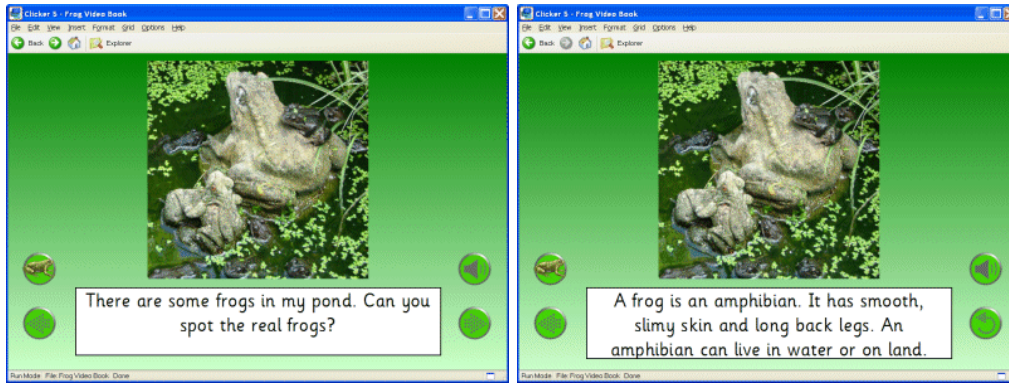
Adapt the talking books provided with Clicker – or those from the LearningGrids website – with your own photos, sounds, and video clips. Students can save their own personal copies, providing useful records of their reading fluency and accuracy.



"At School - Read"

Provide alternative versions of books

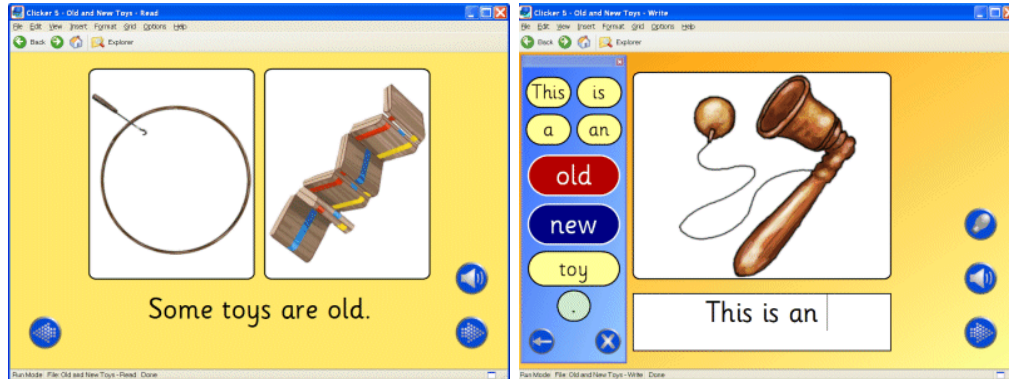
Differentiate books using the same picture, sound, and video material – so learners have resources matched to their abilities. Below, the 'Frog Video' book (provided with Clicker) has been changed to have more complex text, making it suitable for older learners or those with a more advanced reading ability.



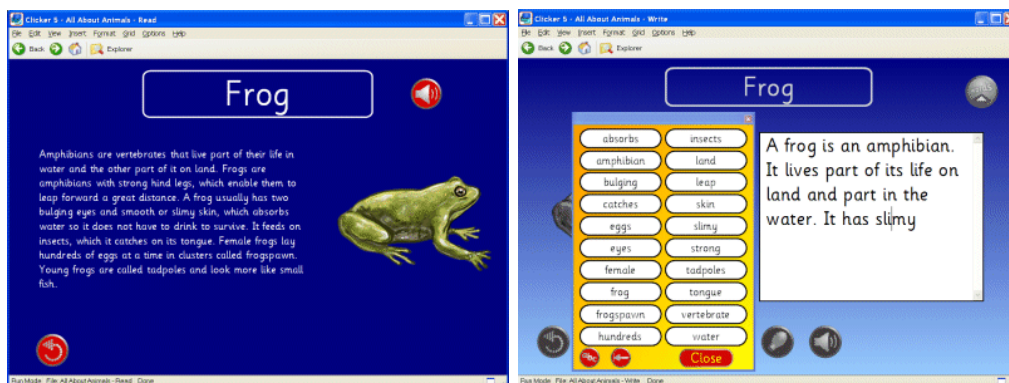
["Frog Book Video"](#)

Link reading and writing activities

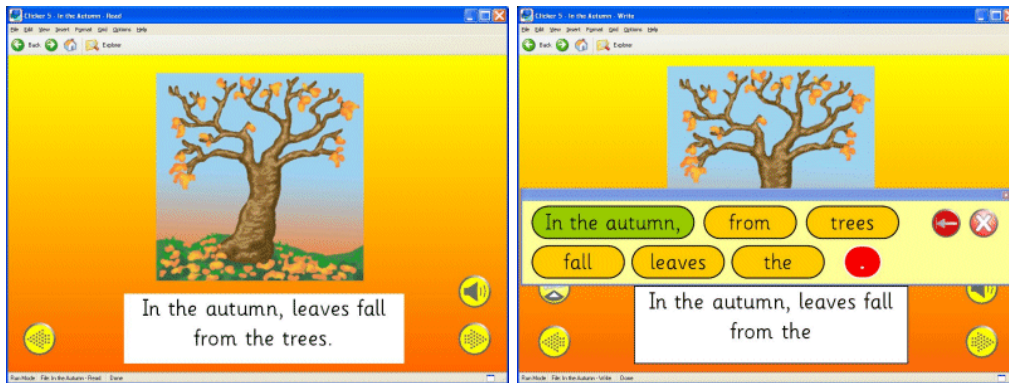
Learners become familiar with text in the book and then create their own books – using pop-up grids – to consolidate their learning!



["Old and New Toys - Read"](#) | ["Old and New Toys - Write"](#)



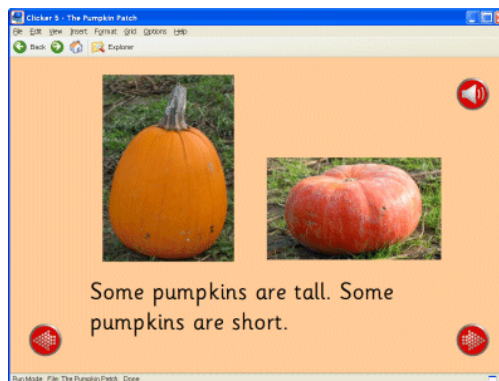
["All About Animals - Read"](#) | ["All About Animals - Write"](#)



["In the Autumn - Read"](#) | ["In the Autumn - Write"](#)

Record an instruction, comment or question

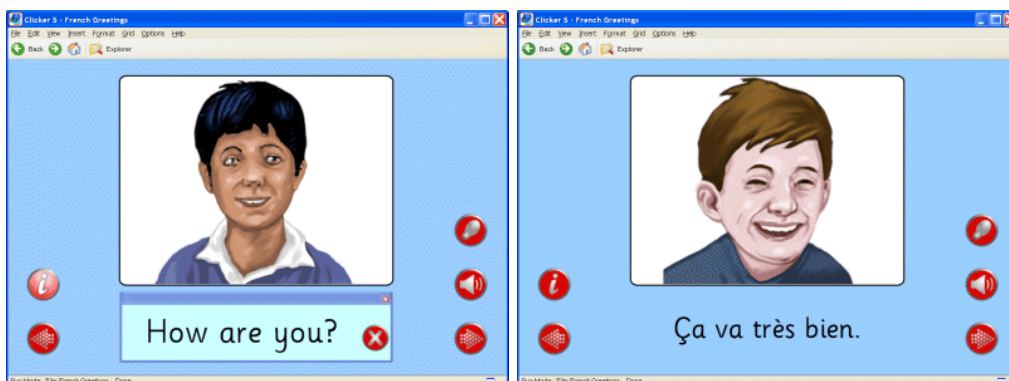
Use Clicker to record your voice on a page, to focus the learner on a particular issue – such as 'What color is the tallest pumpkin?'



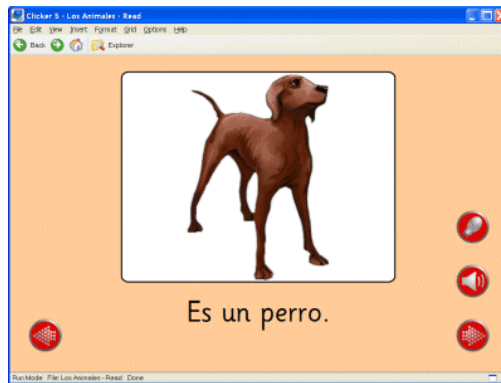
["The Pumpkin Patch"](#)

Create books to support other languages

There are many talking books available from the LearningGrids website to support French and Spanish. When used with language-specific speech engines – or your own voice – you can create invaluable Clicker resources! You can write into Clicker in any language.



"French Greetings"



"Los Animales - Read"

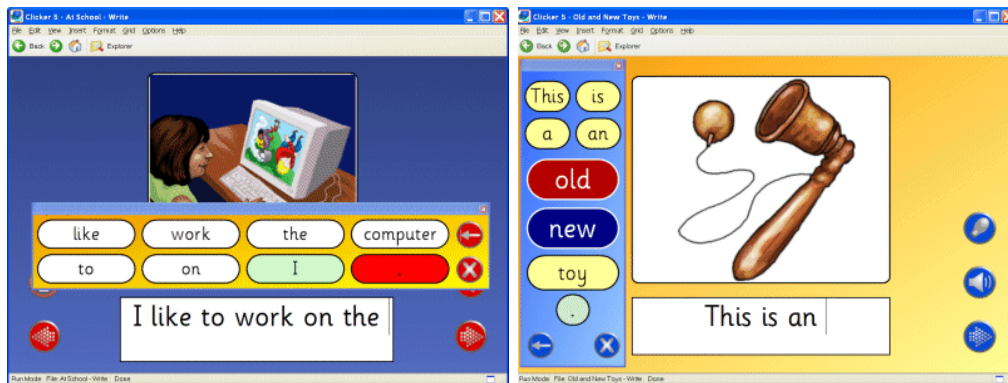
3.3 Writing

Write your own stories or accounts using pop-up word grids

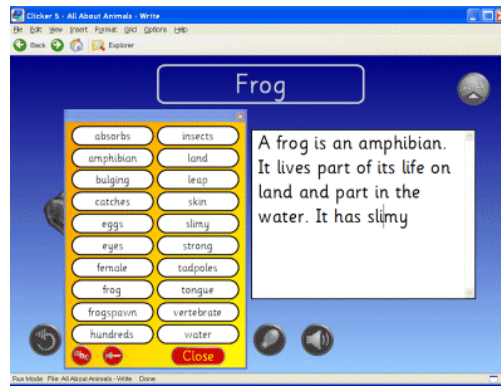
Pop-up grids provide emerging or struggling writers with all the words they need to complete a sentence to accompany a picture.

Alternatively, a pop-up grid can provide a bank of key words to use in conjunction with the keyboard – simply click on the word in the pop-up grid and it appears in the text box!

This encourages learners to become more independent in their writing, as the pop-up grid content can be tailored to their needs.



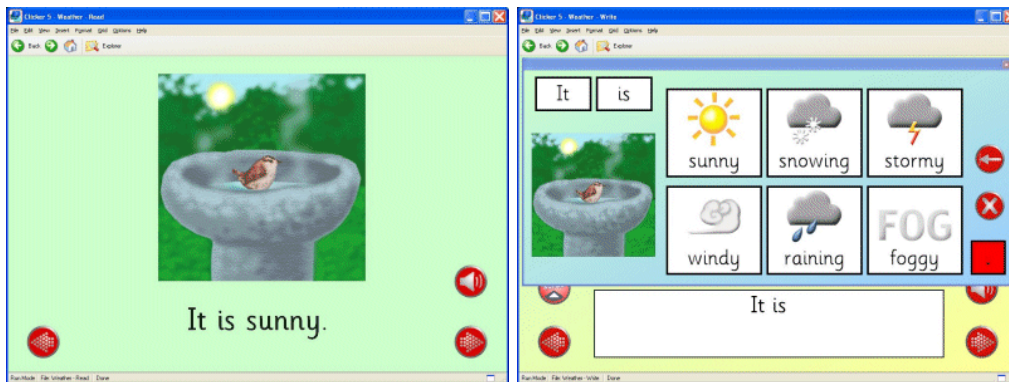
"At School - Write" | "Old and New Toys - Write"



["All About Animals - Write"](#)

Reinforce vocabulary for reading and writing

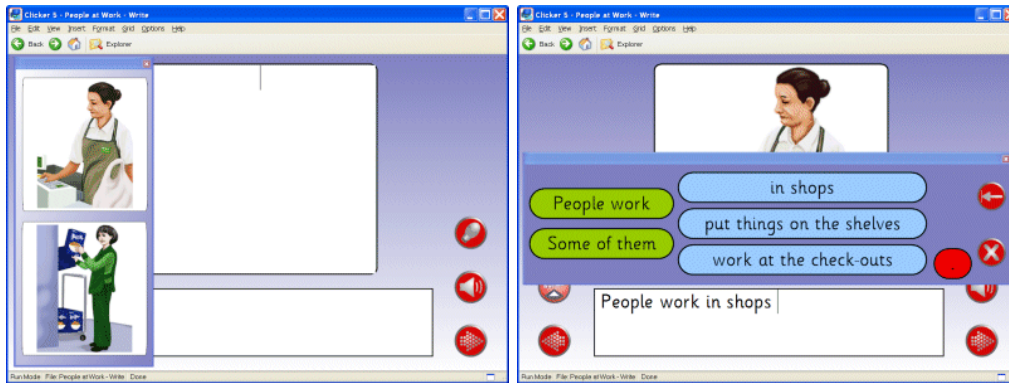
The example below shows both a reading and writing version of a book. The same vocabulary is used in both books, so that learners listen to and rehearse the vocabulary using the first book, and then write their own book using the pop-up grid in the second book.



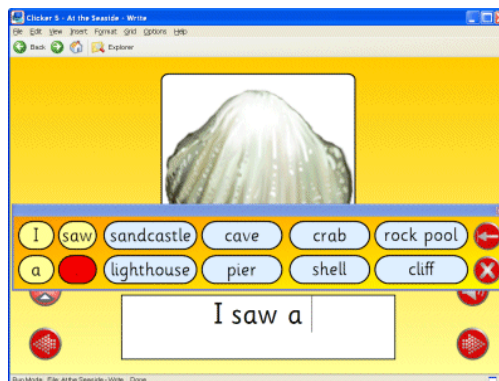
["Weather - Read"](#) | ["Weather - Write"](#)

Determine the order of the content of a book

In these examples, the learner first chooses a picture and then chooses appropriate words or phrases to add to the text box – so the learner decides on the content of each page. Print the book as a record of the activity – and also as a further reading resource!



"People at Work - Write"

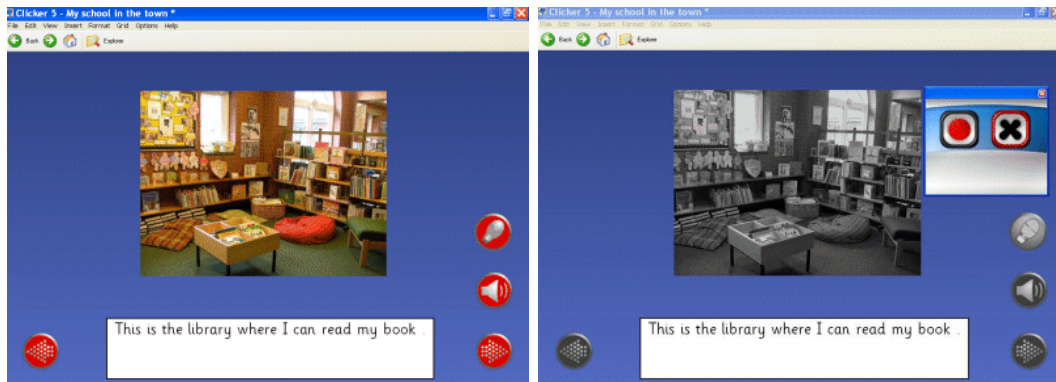


"At the Beach - Write"

Record your own account

Clicker has a microphone icon on every page of the Book Making templates for learners to record their own voices quickly and easily. Students read the text included on the page, or talk about the picture before composing their writing.

This is useful for emerging or very reluctant writers as it provides evidence of their activity. It's also helpful for those with specific learning difficulties, where their recorded speech may provide much more information than their written work.

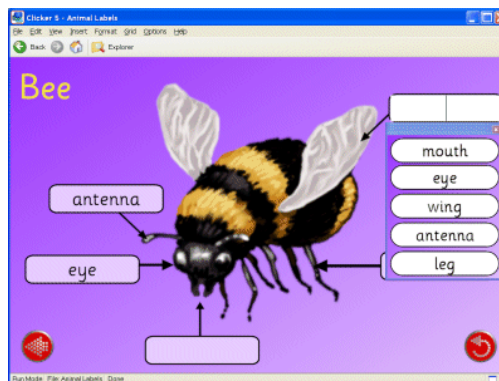


4. Labeling, Sorting, Matching, and sequencing

4.1 Introduction

Pop-up grids let you create a wide range of effective activities to extend learning experiences – labeling, sorting, matching, and sequencing activities.

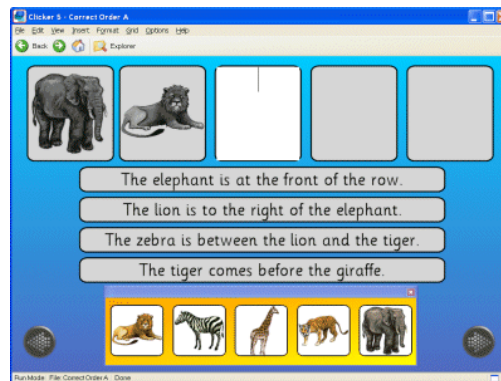
Use these valuable resources to provide reinforcement of learning objectives – as well as assessment opportunities! They are ideal for class, group, or individual work.



["Animal Labels"](#)



["Electricity Sorting"](#) | ["Matching C"](#)



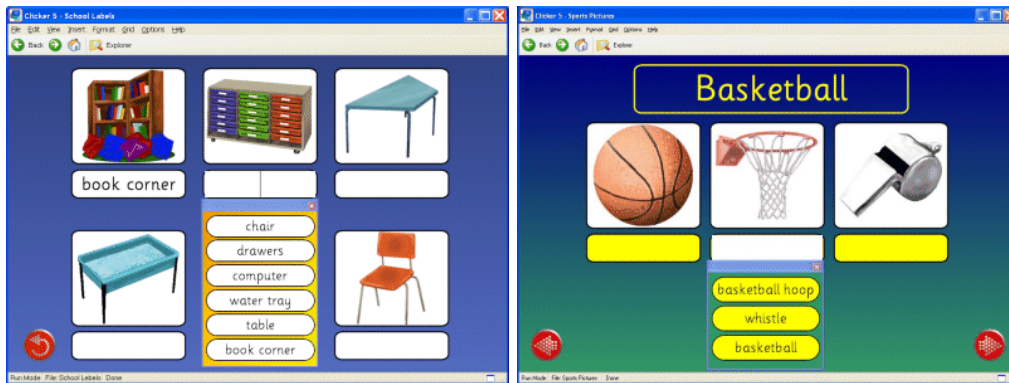
["Correct Order A"](#)

4.2 Labeling

Introduce and reinforce key words

Pop-up grids are great for labeling – whether matching text to a picture or matching pictures to text. Simply click on a blank cell to view the pop-up grid and then select the option that matches. Right-click (Mac: Ctrl-click) to listen to the options before you make a selection!

In the examples below, pictures are labeled with a pop-up word bank appearing below the picture. Simply choose the correct word to match the picture. Have the same pop-up for all the pictures, or a different pop-up for each picture – the choice is yours!



["School Labels"](#) | ["Sports Pictures"](#)

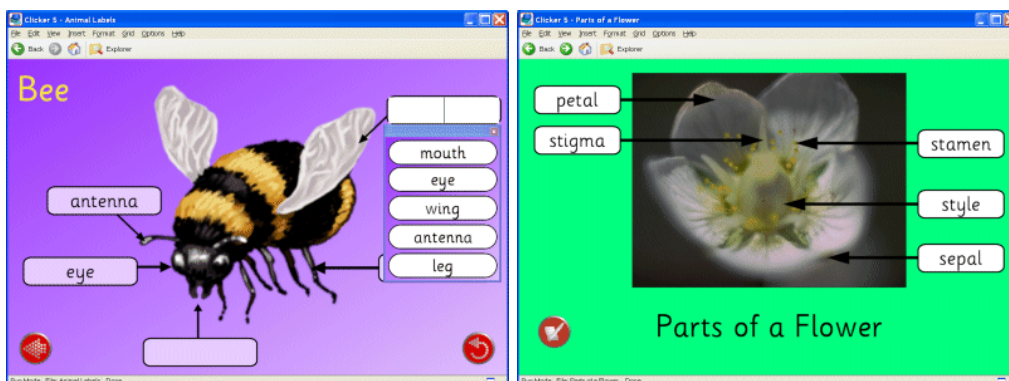


["Musical Instruments – Set A"](#)

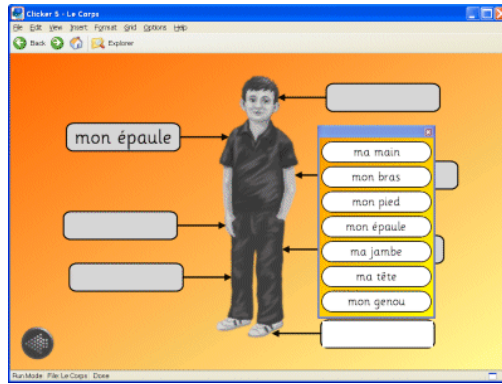
Support all topic areas with any picture or photograph, and in any language!

Clicker comes with a high-quality graphics library – plus you can use your own photos or photos from the Internet!

Labeling activities are ideal for teaching foreign languages – especially when using one of our additional speech engines.



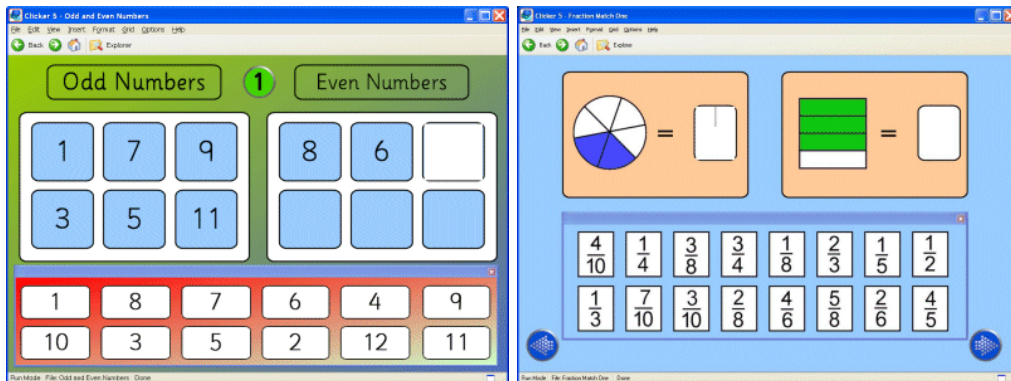
["Animal Labels"](#) | ["Parts of a Flower"](#)



"Le Corps"

Reinforce and enhance math skills

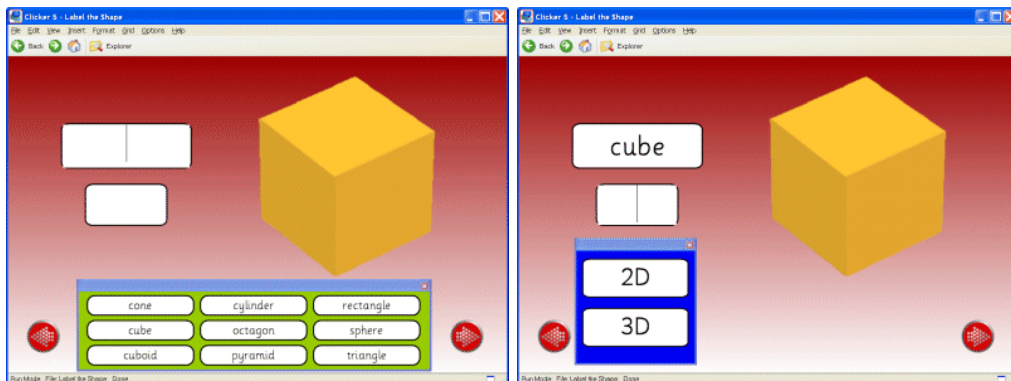
Labeling activities enhance and reinforce math skills in many ways – take a look at the various free resources our LearningGrids.com website!



"Odd and Even Numbers" | "Fraction Match One"

Label and classify objects

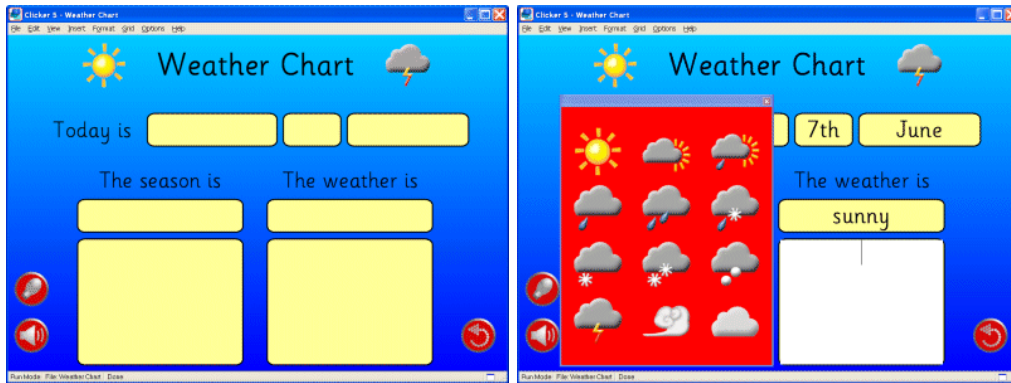
Why stop at one pop-up grid? Use two different pop-ups to both label AND classify a picture!



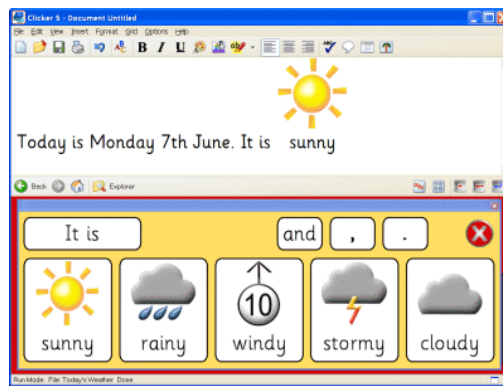
"Label the Shape"

Engage a whole class or group in an interactive activity

This weather chart is a perfect quick and useful group whiteboard activity to start the day. Students take it in turns to access the pop-up grids to complete the chart. LearningGrids.com also contains another activity to complement this, which provides a written record of the activity.



"Weather Chart"

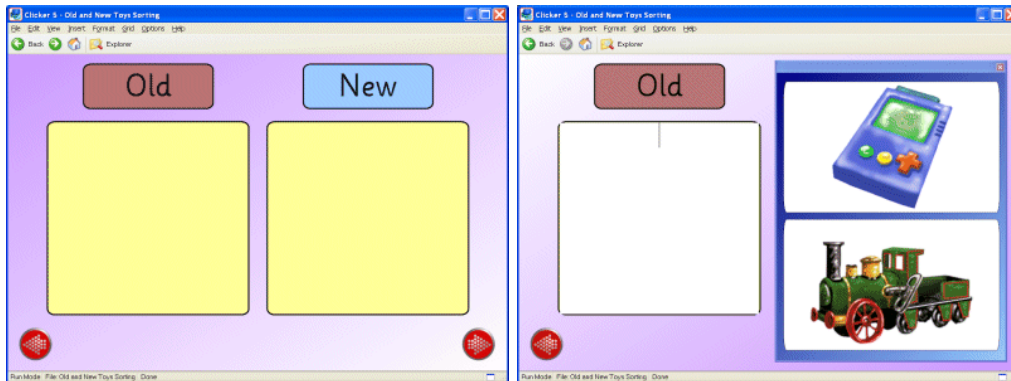


"Today's Weather"

4.3 Sorting and Matching

Let learners show understanding

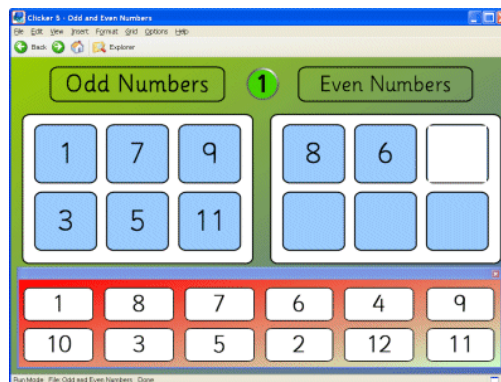
Use pop-up grids to allow students to demonstrate their understanding of a subject. Pop-ups can have as few or as many items as you like – as you can see in these examples!



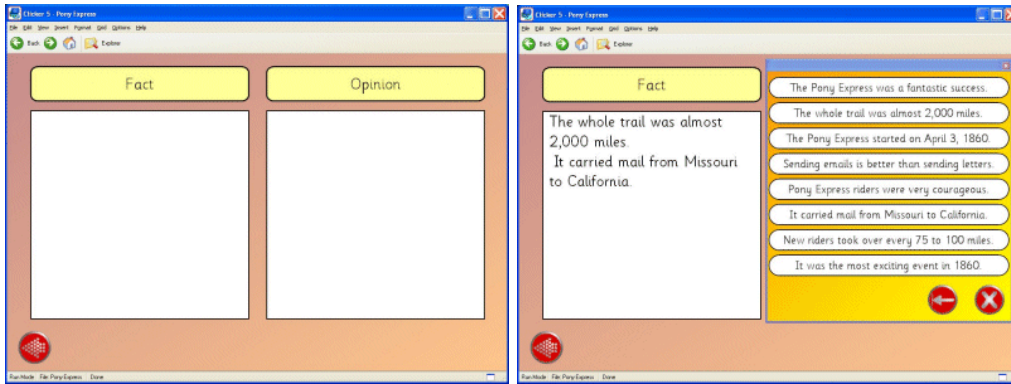
["Old and New Toys Sorting"](#)



["Magnetism Sorting"](#) | ["Vertebrates and Invertebrates"](#)



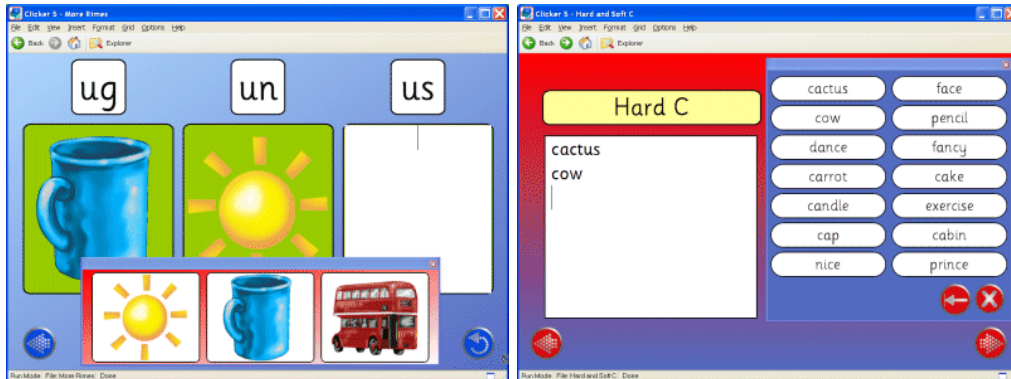
["Odd and Even Numbers"](#)



["Pony Express"](#)

Develop phonic awareness using pictures and/or words

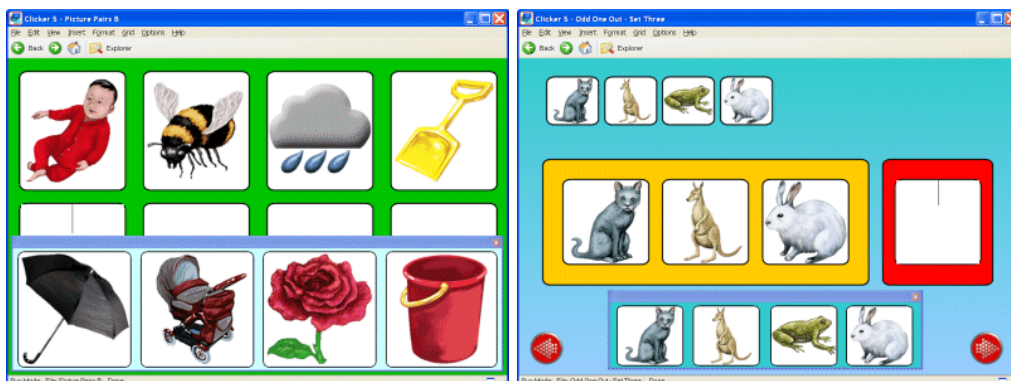
Pop-up grids provide ideal opportunities to sort words or pictures according to their sounds. Reinforcement activities – like these examples – offer visual and auditory cues for learners to recognize and read the words.



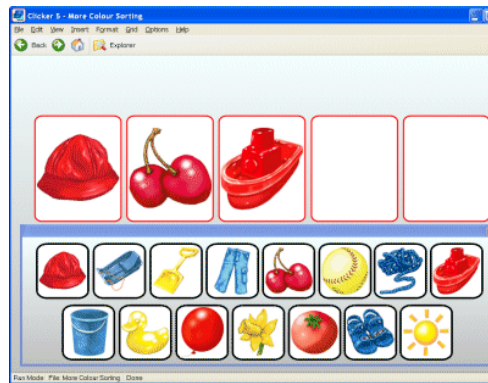
["Find the Rime"](#) | ["Hard and Soft C"](#)

Promote class or small group discussions

Creating open-ended activities not only reinforces learners' reasoning skills, but also provides great opportunities to develop important speaking and listening skills. Activities like these allow students to explore different options and then discuss their choices.



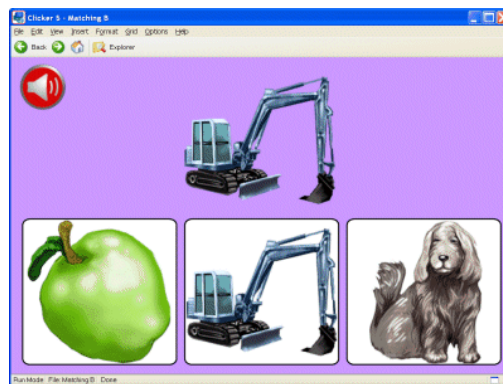
["Picture Pairs B"](#) | ["Odd One Out - Set Three"](#)



["More Color Sorting"](#)

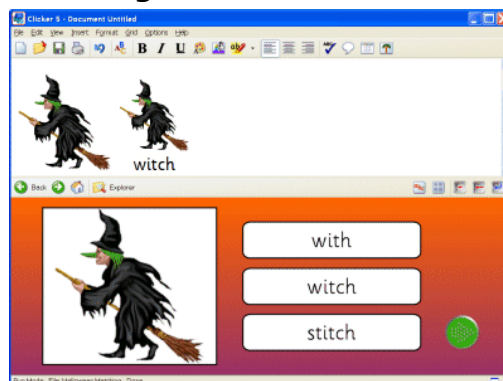
Matching activities include:

Picture matching



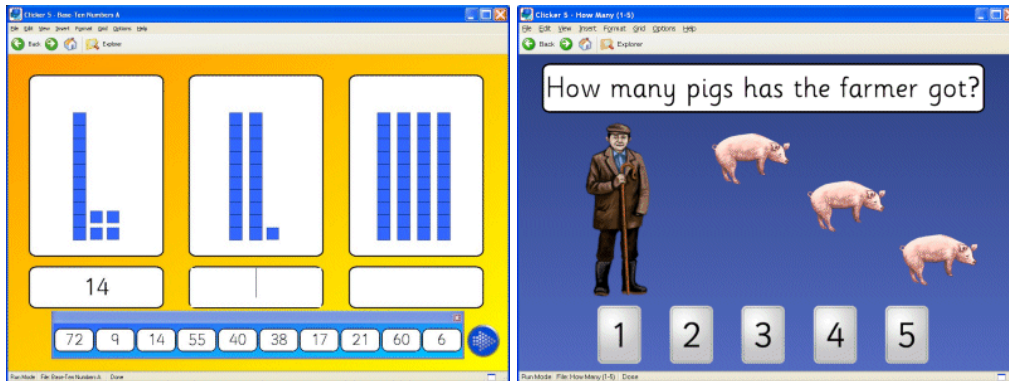
["Matching B"](#)

Word and Picture matching



["Halloween Matching"](#)

Number Matching

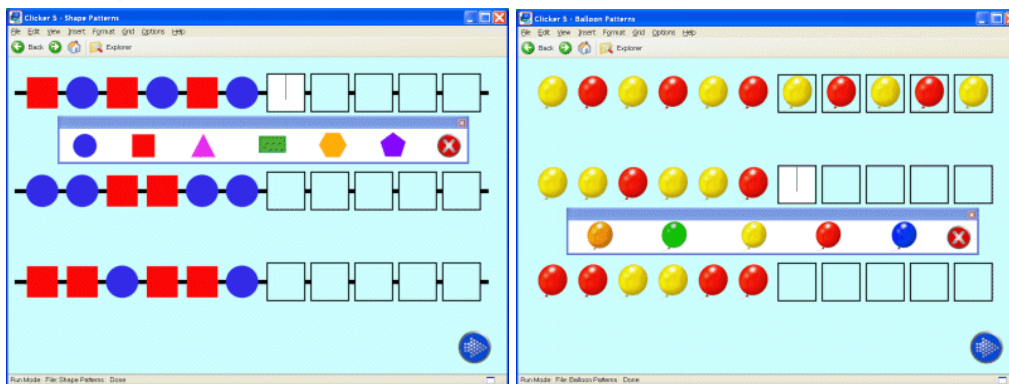


["Base-Ten Numbers A"](#) | ["How Many \(1-5\)"](#)

4.4 Sequencing

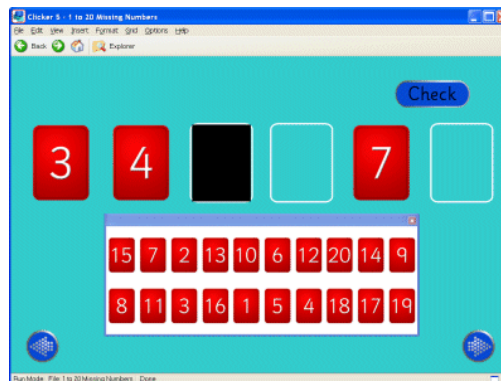
Sequencing activities can include:

Picture sequencing



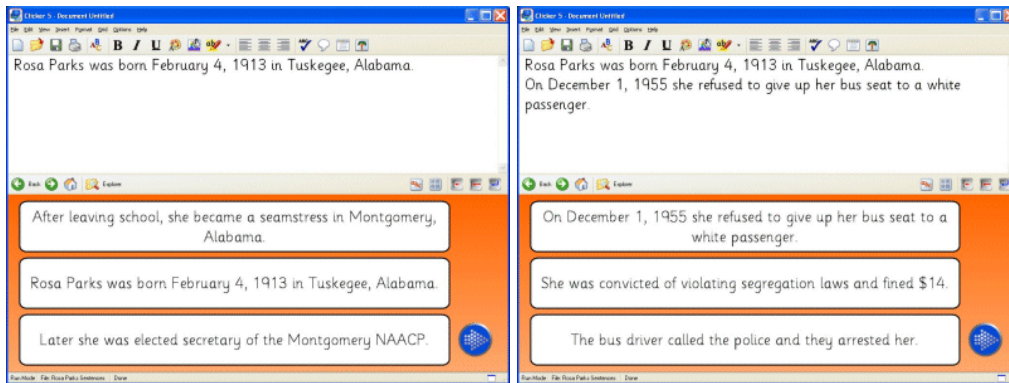
["Shape Patterns"](#) | ["Balloon Patterns"](#)

Number sequencing



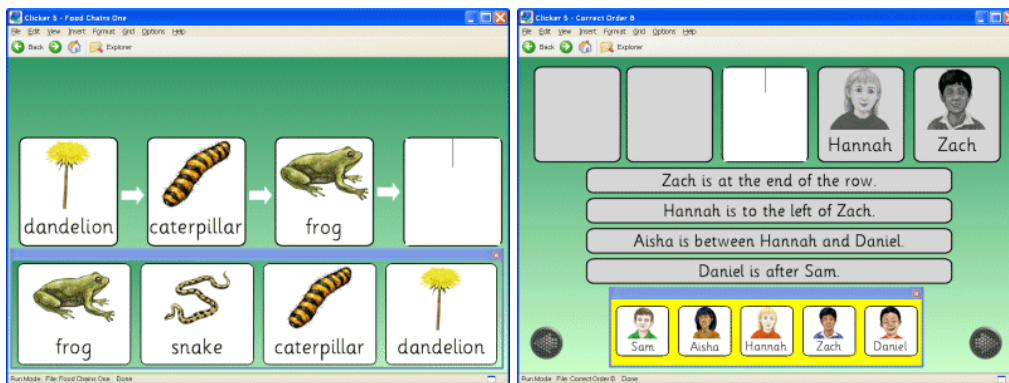
["1-20 Missing Numbers"](#)

Sequencing sentences



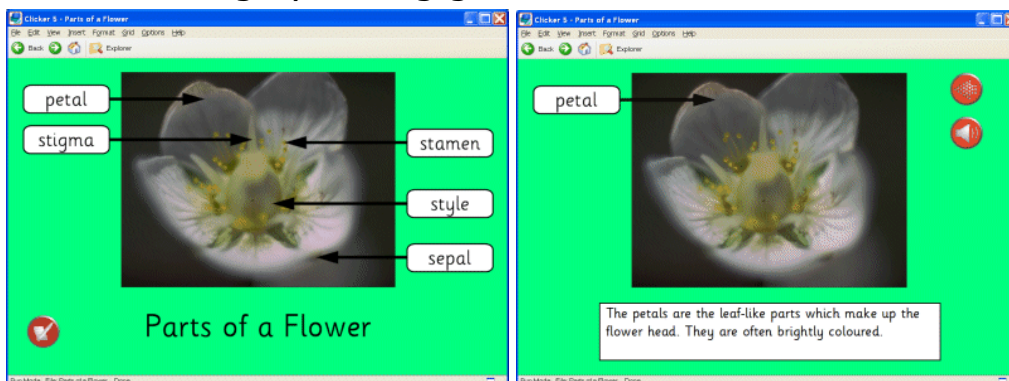
["Rosa Parks Sentences"](#)

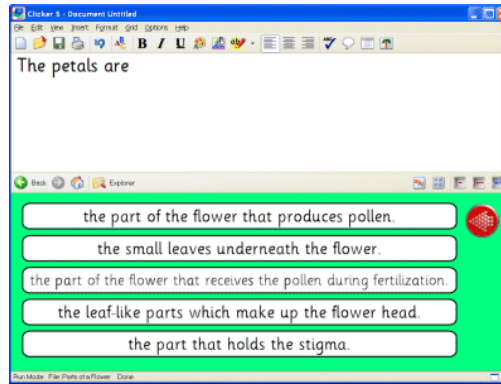
Sequencing events or statements



["Food Chains One"](#) | ["Correct Order B"](#)

Sequence learning by linking grids





"Parts of a Flower"

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